98 60643

LOS ANGELES CITY FACTS AND STATISTICS

Geography: desert, mountain and coastal.

Geographic area: 467 square miles (5th largest city USA).

Highest elevation: 5,074.3 feet above sea level in the vicinity of Sister Elsie Station on Mt. Lukens, San Gabriel Mountains within the community of Tujunga.

Lowest elevation: sea level.

Mountains and hills comprise 214 square miles. Los Angeles is one of the few cities in the world with a major mountain range (the Santa Monica Mountains) contained within its borders.

Climate: Mediterranean. Mean temperature: 63 degrees, varying throughout the city due to the geography.

Rain average: 34.9 rainy days (14.85 inch average); wettest month: January (3.69 inch average); driest month: July (average no rain).

Air quality: Stage 1 ozone episodes reduced by environmental measures and climatic conditions from 121 (1977) to 7 (1996).

Earthquakes: Since 1800 approximately 60 damaging earthquakes affected Los Angeles, with no damaging quakes recorded from 1933 to 1970. Most damaging recent seismic events: 1933 Long Beach: 6.3 magnitude, 115 deaths, over $48 million in property damage; 1971 San Fernando/Sylmar: 6.6 magnitude, 65 deaths, over $504 million in property damage; 1994 Northridge: 6.7 magnitude, 62 deaths, estimated $20 billion in property damage.

Population (1994): 3,451,900 (second most populous city in the nation). L.A. County: 9,230,600. Region (L.A., San Bernardino, Riverside, Imperial, Orange & Ventura counties): 15,609,500.

Ethnic diversity (1994): Home of the largest Mexican, Filipino and Korean populations outside of their native countries. Hispanic (42.9%), non-Hispanic white (34.4%), African American (12.7%), Asian and Pacific Islander (less than 10%) & Native American (1%.).

Languages: Over 90 separate languages and dialects are spoken in the city's schools.

Housing (1994): 1,322,960 units (522,080 single-family dwellings).

Commerce: Employment (1990), 1,914,500 jobs. Largest employment sectors: service industries (over 750,000 jobs), manufacturing (300,000) and retail trade (300,000).

International trade (1996): The Los Angeles region is the busiest U.S. Customs district in the nation, handling $170.1 billion in import-export trade, 12% of the nation's total.

Airports (1996): Within the city are Los Angeles International (LAX), Van Nuys, Whiteman (operated by the county) and Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena (operated by a tri-jurisdictional authority and partially located in the city) airports. The busiest is (LAX); 5th busiest airport in the world; 4th busiest in nation (732,639 flights, 53.9 million passengers, over 1.79 million tons of goods).

Ports (1996): The Los Angeles and Long Beach deep water ports handle the greatest volume of trade of any ports in the USA; over 147 million metric tons. Together, they are the world's 3rd busiest container port complex, handling 6 million 20-foot containers.

Circulation/Transportation:

Sidewalks: First cement and asphalt street and cement sidewalk constructed with city funds was along Main Street in 1880.

Bikeways (1996): 45 miles of paths, 130 miles of bike lanes and 160 miles of shared-lane bikeways along city streets.

Motor vehicles (1990): 1,840,982. Over 24 million peak hour motor vehicle trips.

Longest street: 31 mile long Sepulveda Boulevard.

Busiest intersection (1994): 137,696 cars daily at the Wilshire Boulevard and Sepulveda Boulevard intersection.

Street cleaning: the first recorded street cleaning in the city was in 1838 when residents were required to sweep the streets in front of their homes every Saturday so the city would be clean on the Sunday sabbath.

Freeway: first freeway in the nation was the six-mile Arroyo Seco Parkway (later renamed the Pasadena Freeway) 1940.

Public transportation:

The first Los Angeles stagecoach line: Los Angeles to the San Pedro harbor by Phineas Banning and D.W. Alexander in 1852.

Street cars: The first publicly supported municipal transportation system in the nation was the Spring and Sixth Street Horse Railroad Company (1874).

Buses (1992): over 200 bus routes. Heaviest bus corridor (1992): Wilshire Boulevard (over 7,000 passenger average during the morning peak hour).

Parks: 379 parks (15,686 acres), including 2,650 acres of open space (1997). Largest city park in the world: 4,226 acre Griffith Park. Beaches: 14 miles; the largest amount of public beach land owned by any city in the nation.

Drainage: The 58-mile long Los Angeles River is contained within a concrete flood control channel. The city bureau of engineering constructed and maintains 1,500 miles of subterranean storm drains within the city. The combined county and city systems can carry billions of gallons of run off per day to the ocean.

Longest serving Planning Commissioner: Suzette Neiman of Encino (August 22, 1973-August 1993), a neighborhood quality advocate.

Prepared by Anne V. Howell of the Los Angeles Department of City Planning, 6/98.

Copies are available from the Central Publications Unit, Los Angeles Department of City Planning.